

Guidelines for Expeditious Naturalization

Please Note: This announcement is for Eligible Family Members of Department of State direct-hire personnel only. Other agencies assist their own EFMs with the naturalization process.

To qualify for expeditious naturalization the following requirements must be fulfilled:

1. A foreign-born spouse must have entered the U.S. legally and have Legal Permanent Resident Alien status in the U.S. (The status may be conditional and if a "green card" has not been issued yet, an "A" number in the passport with the annotation "processed for I-551" is sufficient.)
2. The spouse must be going with the employee on an overseas assignment or currently be at post with the employee AND must have at least one year left at post at the time of naturalization. **Please note: USCIS will not waive this requirement.**
3. Naturalization cannot take place more than 45 days prior to departure from the U.S. to post. You may, however, apply and start the process if you have received your post assignment notification.

While FLO does not accept applications and documentation, FLO will write cover letters and offer advice on the process. Applicants may call FLO's Reception Desk at (202) 647-1076 to receive further instructions.

If you have a case pending at the Washington District Office in Fairfax, Virginia, for contact information, click here-

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/65795.doc>

(This mailbox may be used by 319(b) cases from all agencies. Please include applicant's name and A number when corresponding.)

The process:

- Applicants must complete the draft cover letter <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/65752.doc> and return it to FLO with a copy of the **post assignment notification**.
- Based on the information in the draft letter, FLO will generate a cover letter on Department letterhead and send it back to the applicant together

with the USCIS mailing address.. Please provide FLO with your fax number.

- The applicant is now ready to submit to USCIS the N400 application form available at <http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/files/N-400.pdf>, the cover letter, the “blue sheet” <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/65750.doc> (should be printed on blue paper, if possible), photos, check, and the supporting documentation.
- Required documentation checklist: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/65751.doc>

The current fee for processing of an N400 is \$400 if you apply from the U.S. or \$330 if you apply from abroad with fingerprint cards. If you are applying from the U.S. you will get a notice to go to a USCIS facility to have your fingerprints taken after your case has been submitted. Without presenting this official notice you will not be able to get this done.

You may stipulate which district office you would prefer to have the interview at on the so called “blue sheet,” but according to FLO’s experience, requesting a district office where they rarely or maybe never process a 319(b) case may sometimes cause delays. Therefore, the recommended district offices where FLO has good contacts are the Washington District Office in Fairfax, VA, and the district offices in Miami and Honolulu. You may, however, also indicate another district office if you so choose.

When the case has been processed and is ready for adjudication, the applicant will receive a Notice to Appear for the interview. If successful, the oath ceremony during which the applicant is naturalized will follow. After taking the oath the applicant receives a Certificate of Citizenship to prove that he or she is now a U.S. citizen. Cameras are allowed and guests are welcome to the Oath Ceremony.

During the interview the applicant will be asked ten questions in writing from a list of around 100 questions found on

http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/citizenship/flashcards/Flashcard_questions.pdf

They aim at testing the applicant’s knowledge of U.S. history and the Constitution. Six of the ten questions will have to be correct in order for the applicant to pass the test. The ten questions will be selected by a computer at random and will be provided in writing. The candidate will have to complete the answers in writing as well. The test is currently being revised, so please check the USCIS website to make sure that new regulations have not been applied.

Please follow instructions carefully! Do not substitute any requested documentation on the list for something else. A post assignment

authorization is not the same as a post assignment notification, for instance!

Documentation Checklist may be found at
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/65751.doc>

The average processing time is currently around four months but it may take longer. Although you may have requested a certain month or date for the interview, if the case is not ready for adjudication you will have to wait. FLO cannot influence this process and has no authority to speed it up. **If you are abroad, please do not make travel arrangements until you know that your case is ready for adjudication!**

Many applicants who are already serving overseas try to request an interview date during a time they may be able to take advantage of R&R travel. There is no financial assistance from the Government for this process. Applying to become a U.S. citizen is considered a private matter.

If you have questions, please contact Sylwia Favret at (202) 647 1076 or via email at FavretSM@state.gov.

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